

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 286636

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT KUWAIT 5456 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO ABU DHABI JIDDA LONDON PARIS 22 NOV 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5456

DEPT PASS TREASURY FOR ASST SECY PARSKY'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN PFOR KU US

SUBJECT: PARSKY VISIT TO KUWAIT

1. THOUGH SHORT (2 DAYS, NOV 19-21) AND ON A LOCAL WEEKEND (ARRIVING FRIDAY), VISIT BY TREAS ASST SECY PARSKY WAS A SUCCESS IN TERMS OF REACHING KUWAITIS IMPORTANT IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. IT WAS CLEAR TO ASST SEC PARSKY THAT KUWAITIS APPRECIATED VISIT IN LIGHT OF UNCERTAINTIES CREATED BY US ELECTIONS. PARSKY'S PREVIOUS VISITS HAD CREATED MUTUAL RESPECT AND HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK FRANKLY TO ALL OFFICIALS.

2. PARSKY CALLED ON BOTH FINANCE AND OIL MINISTERS (REFS A & B) AND HAD FIRM APPOINTMENT WITH AMIR'S SON
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(AND MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS), SHAIKH SALEM

UNTIL LATTER CALLED OUT OF COUNTRY AND HAD TO CANCEL ALL APPOINTMENTS FOR SOME SPECIAL REASON. FINANCE MINISTER CAME TO DINNER HOSTED BY PARSKY NOV 20, AS DID INFLUENTIAL PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, UNDERSECRETARY OF OIL MINISTRY, DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENTS, AND CHAIRMEN OF NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTAL AND QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

3. PREVIOUS PRESS SPECULATION THAT PARSKY ARRIVING AS PART OF US "BLITZKREIG" REGARDING OIL PRICES, LED TO TENDENTIOUS EDITORIAL IN LOCAL ARABIC DAILY RE PURPOSE OF TRIP. EVER ADEPT AT MISQUOTING SOURCES AND GETTING STORIES WRONG, LOCAL ARABIC DAILY AL RAI AL-AAMM TURNED PARSKY STATEMENT THAT US OPPOSES ANY INCREASE IN OIL PRICES INTO REPORT THAT US WOULD NOT DISPUTE PRICE HIKE. IN RESPONSE TO CALL BY ASST SEC PARSKY AND EMBASSY FOLLOW-UP, REPORTER PROMISED TO CORRECT THIS AND OTHER INACCURACIES IN ENGLISH VERSION OF INTERVIEW TO BE PUBLISHED NEXT DAY. ENGLISH CVGXZ BY PARSKY. DESPITE THIS SLANT, AND OTHER ARGUMENTATIVE INSERTIONS, STORY ON FRONT PAGE OF KUWAIT TIMES REFLECTED MORE ACCURATELY WHAT PARSKY HAD SAID ABOUT A NEGATIVE IMPACT OF ANY OIL PRICE RISE ON WORLD ECONOMY; B) ARAB BOYCOTT; C) FAVORABLE COMMENT ON RESPONSIBLE GOK POLICY ATTITUDES; AND D) US/SAUDI COOPERATION.

4. TWO DINNERS PLUS MEETINGS GAVE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ASST SECY PARSKY AND HIS PARTY TO DO USEFUL MISSIONARY WORK ON US POSITON ON BOYCOTT AND CONFUSION CREATED BY EXTENSIONS OF BOYCOTT. KUWAITIS ON WHOLE WEEMED RECEPTIVE TO PRESENTATIONS, AND, WE HOPE, WILL ACT ON THEM (SEE SEPTTEL).

5. FOREGOING CLEARED IN DRAFT BY ASST SECY PARSKY. MAESTRONE. UNQUOTE KISSINGER.

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